

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for operating a first computer that is connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

loading first configuration data including a software portion and a hardware portion for a first task, allocated to the first computer, into the first computer via the network wherein the loading is initiated either independently or in response to a specific request;

automatically reconfiguring the physical hardware structure of the first computer with the aid of the hardware portion of the first configuration data so that the first computer exhibits a hardware structure adjusted to the first task; and

processing the first task with the first computer configured with the first configuration data.

Claim 2 (original): A method for operating a first computer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

configuring, prior to completion of the step of processing the first task, a part of the hardware of the first computer that is no longer necessary for the step of processing the first task, for processing a second task by loading second configuration data allocated to the second task into the first computer via the network.

Claim 3 (original): A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of: processing the second task prior to the completion of the step of processing the first task.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (new): A method for operating a computer that is connected to a network comprising:

loading configuration data including a software portion and a hardware portion for a first task that is allocated to the computer into the computer via the network wherein the loading is

initiated either independently or in response to a request, wherein the hardware of the computer is capable of being physically reconfigured;

automatically reconfiguring the physical hardware structure of the first computer with the aid of the hardware portion of the configuration data so that the computer has a hardware structure adjusted to the first task; and

processing the first task with the computer as reconfigured in the physical hardware structure with the configuration data.

Claim 6 (new): A method as defined in claim 5, further comprising:

configuring, prior to completion of processing the first task, a part of the hardware of the first computer that is no longer necessary for processing the first task, for processing a second task by loading second configuration data allocated to the second task into the computer via the network.

Claim 7 (new): A method as defined in claim 6, further comprising:

processing the second task prior to the completion of processing the first task.

Claim 8 (new): A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the computer comprises a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA).